



A Word from our President

Bill Underwood

Thank you for your confidence in electing me President of the NFOS. I am looking forward to a great term with the help of Vice President Kristi Ostrom, Treasurer Sam Henderson and Secretary John Godert. One of my main goals is to improve communication throughout the organization. Those of you who have been around for a while will remember the NFOS Newsletters of the late 90s. Elliot Roth did a great job of coordinating them and I think they added real value to the organization. Thankfully, John Godert has agreed to take on this position to help us revive the newsletter. The newsletter will be electronic and I would like all faculty and staff at the member schools to receive it. I would appreciate it if

you could take a couple of minutes right now to send John Godert@ecc.edu a list of e-mail addresses.

The meeting in Jacksonville was great. Vistakon certainly has the right to be proud of their Vision Care Institute. I am sorry some members were not able to attend. I am working with Vistakon to arrange opportunities for additional faculty and our students to attend. Many thanks to Dr. Purcell and his staff at Vistakon for being wonderful hosts. I am hoping for record attendance at our fall meeting in Las Vegas. The College Bowl is a great opportunity to showcase our talented students. As a reminder, the College Bowl competition is open to all member schools. Please read

the accompanying article for more information. The schedule has been designed this year so you will be able to enjoy all that Vision Expo has to offer in addition to NFOS functions. At various points in our business meeting, sponsors will be presenting some new programs for you and your students.

Please feel free contact me at any time with your suggestions or concerns. I may be reached at bunderwood@hccfl.edu or 813-253-7430. I will do my best to serve the membership in our efforts to advance Opticianry education. I hope to see all of you in Las Vegas.

Sincerely,

Bill

Special points of interest:

- *New President welcome*
- *College Bowl at Expo West*
- *Suffolk County CC offers new format*
- *CC of Southern Nevada & Middlesex CC provide eyecare to children in Mexico*
- *NFOS enjoys an interactive experience at The Vision Care Institute in Jacksonville, Florida*

Inside this issue:

- News from our schools* 2
- Eyecare Outreach in LaPaz, Mexico* 3
- Las Vegas meeting* 4
- NYSSO awards* 4

College Bowl 2006

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Essilor, the College Bowl will again be a highlight of Vision Expo West. The committee of Scott Helkaa, John Godert, Ted Morse, Randy Smith & Rich Palumbo has worked hard to created additional sets of questions for the competition. As last year,

the college bowl is open to all NFOS Member Schools. The NFOS will cover the cost of the student's hotel rooms and the colleges are responsible for the airfare. Schools in several states received donations for their state associations to pay the airfare. The initial rounds will be held on Thurs-

day, September 14th in the evening. The final competition will be at noon on Friday the 15th. Please e-mail the name and contact information for your student to Scott Helkaa scott_helkaa@ccsn.nevada.edu no later than August 15th.

News from our schools

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College

Kristi Ostrom

Joel Adler has left the division and is now the Assistant Dean of the School of Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies at our western campus. If anyone would like to contact him to *harass*, I mean congratulate him on his new position his email is jadler@reynolds.edu.

We have been able to purchase 2 Activisu Interactive Dispensing Systems for our dispensing clinic this summer and can't wait to get more practice using them.

We just sent the JSR Advertisement to the NAO for their next newsletter. I made sure to mention the NFOS and that we were "one of" the schools offering distance education without it being TOO obvious. The important thing is formal education is advertised.

The final meeting for the ABO exam question writing team is in July. Randy Smith, Jim Reese and I participated and the new exam questions should be ready for use in the fall. We will know for sure when we return from the meeting.

Erie Community college

John Godert

On May 3rd, Erie Community College Ophthalmic Dispensing Department and Student Optical Society hosted our Twenty-Second Annual Ophthalmic Dispensing Student Seminar. Corporate, Foundation and Department Scholarships were awarded to fifteen Senior and Junior Ophthalmic Dispensing Students.

Following the awards ceremony, the Department sponsored Continuing Education. Carol Schartner presented "Healthy Sight Counseling", as an Integrated Approach to Eyecare, courtesy of Transitions Optical. Mike DiSanto defined "FreeForm" and its influence on lens design and manufacturing to our ophthalmic community, courtesy of Essilor of America.

A recent ECC Alumni survey revealed mixed opinion on the feasibility of a program name change. Vision Care Technology was proposed as a possible name change and presented to Alumni for feedback. The program name change which originated during a State program review remains an on going initiative.

New York City College of Technology

Bob Russo

The Department of Vision Care Technology recently completed its new addition to the eyeglass clinic by remodeling its present refraction facility. In addition to adding new furniture and computer systems to the clinic area, the department received a generous grant from EyeMaginations utilizing 3 D education animation software. This unique program is the only fully 3 D animated communication platform to education patients on eye-care related products. During this past summer, with the support of Dean Victor Ayala, Dean of Professional Studies, the college purchased a new Paradigm Visual Perimeter and SifimavVision tester.

President Hotzler, who has been very supportive to our new initiatives, was able to secure additional funding for the department to purchase six new state of the art Topcon edging machines.

As of this fall, the department added contact lens fitting and dispensing into our clinical rotations. With grants from Ciba Vision and Coopervision, students in their third and fourth semesters will be assisting and fitting clinical patients with the assistance of our clinical optometrist and full-time faculty member.

Suffolk County Community College Offers New Format

Elliot Roth

In a rather unconventional approach to ophthalmic education, Suffolk Community College launched a one-year ophthalmic program in September of 2005. The first class is scheduled to complete its studies on August 17, and the response has been excellent. According to Dr. Roth, program coordinator, "the instructors and administrators have recognized the atypical profile of the ophthalmic student and have built the schedule around that profile". Students who require additional general education courses have the option of taking them in a "pre-clinical" phase or at the same time as the ophthalmic courses are taken. The program runs only on Tuesdays and Thursdays over the course of four twelve-week quarter-mesters. The total class and laboratory time is identical to the conventional program. "We are attempting to cater to the needs of returning adult students who are working or need time off during the week for personal interests. At the same time, we are only minimally changing the process for graduating High School students who are interested in the program." says Roth. Instructors have noticed better retention due primarily to the continuity of study and the lack of large vacation breaks. Of the 26 original students, 19 (73%) are still registered in the final semester.

Eyecare Outreach Program Conducted in LaPaz, Mexico

In an effort to continue and expand their Eyecare Outreach Program, during the week of June 3-11, Scott Helkaa, Program Director of the Ophthalmic Dispensing Program at the Community College of Southern Nevada and Raymond Dennis, Coordinator of the Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing Program at Middlesex Community College led a team of eleven eyecare professionals and students to LaPaz, Baja California Sur, Mexico. Ray and Scott were accompanied by Dr and Mrs. Joseph Bacotti of Glen Cove, NY, Dr, and Mrs. Malcolm Gorin of Haddam, CT, Sharon Lessor and Ed Thornton (2006 graduates of Middlesex), Ted Ostheimer and Marcus Hall (Class of 2007 at Middlesex) and Thomas Lessor (Sharon's son) who graduated this June from East Hampton H.S. in Connecticut. The effort was coordinated with Judith Peterson and Mary Shroyer of the Fundacion Ayuda Ninos, a foundation that helps poor children in LaPaz.

During the eight days that they were in Mexico, the team conducted screenings and/or exams on 800 schoolchildren and some of their teachers. It was truly a wonderful experience for all. The

team visited three different elementary schools on the outskirts of the city of LaPaz, providing basic eyecare services to children that otherwise would not have received the needed care. The children exhibited many of the typical ametropias that are found everywhere else and some interesting special cases. We were quite surprised to find a significant population of amblyopic children, some of whom were young enough that we might be able to make a difference with.

The children that were determined to require correction were fit with sample frames on site, measured for P.D. and the eyeglass orders filled out. Upon our return, students of the OD&D program at Middlesex ordered, fabricated and assembled 160 pairs of eyeglasses for shipment down to LaPaz. We all wish that we would be there to see the smiles on the kids' faces.

In addition to our work, the team had time to do some snorkeling and kayaking at Espiritu Santo off the coast of LaPaz in the Sea of Cortes.

Randall Haskin and Jack Dilemme, two real estate developers from California and Ana Tomba of LaPaz treated us to a day on their 46 foot Bertram cabin cruiser. Randy and Jack were impressed by our commitment to provide for the needs of the local poor children and wanted to do something to thank us, and it sure was a nice thank you. We were snorkeling side-by-side with sea lions while riding in style. I guess it was a case of Good Karma, so let's keep the karma moving.

The Eyecare Outreach Program that Scott and Ray have started is a program that we would like to expand in the future to include faculty and students of other NFOS colleges. We are in the process of exploring funding from the Rotary and Lions or any other sources that will help us to cover our expenses. If you have an interest in participating give Ray Dennis a call at Middlesex or Scott a call at CCSN.

NFOS Las Vegas Meeting Agenda

The next NFOS Meeting will be held September 13-15th in Las Vegas. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Wednesday September 13th

7:00 PM Welcome Reception

Thursday September 14th

8:00 - 2:00 Enjoy Vision Expo West

3:00PM Business Meeting & Sponsor Presentations

6:00PM Buffet dinner with College Bowl Participants

7:00Pm Preliminary Rounds of College Bowl

Friday September 15th

7:30 to 8:00 Breakfast

8:00 to 11:00 Business Meeting and Sponsor Presentations Continued

NFOS Attends The Vision Care Institute

This past May, Program Directors and faculty from thirteen member schools participated in an interactive educational experience at the Vision Care Institute of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. in Jacksonville, Florida. The two and a half day session included communication and technical skills presentations and workshops. NFOS members explored effective means to solving clinical challenges associated with fitting presbyopic and astigmatic contact lenses through didactic and clinical practice.

Dr. Howard Purcell, the Vision Care Institute Director and his team were remarkable in welcoming and assisting the NFOS. Clinical experiences were enhanced with patient follow-up sessions and peer review. In addition to this enriching experience, members had an opportunity to explore state-of-the-art instrumentation and to tour the Vistakon manufacturing facility.

On our last day, the Vistakon team invited suggestions from the NFOS on how these sessions which are presently open to third and fourth year optometry students would compliment the educational experience for opticianry students as well. The NFOS extends our appreciation to the Vision Care Institute Team for their professional support. We look forward to future opportunity for NFOS members and students to

New York State Society of Opticians is proud of NYS ophthalmic dispensing students as they pursue their studies. To encourage scholarship, NYSSO sponsored the **2006 Student Research Competition**. The Society is pleased to announce this year's winners:

1st Place Winner

Roger Leyonmark from Erie Community College

The Uses of Contact Lenses with Children

2nd Place Winner

Jade Hutton from New York City College of Technology

Ocular Allergies & GPC

3rd Place Winner

Lisha Lambert from New York City College of Technology

Photochromic Lenses: Survival for the Fittest Lens

This year's **Student Scholarship Awardees** are:

Jillian R. Newland from Erie Community College

Amber Carlson from Erie Community College

Robert McGlynn from New York City College of Technology